



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
September 7, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, Gina Joyce, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES

Mayor Miner reported that the Council met in a work session prior to the regular meeting during which they discussed the City's preliminary 2022 budget and levy. He noted more discussion will happen in the coming months, with a decision on adoption of a final levy taking place in December.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Joyce, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of August 24, 2021 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-37 Accepting a Donation to the Long Lake Fire Department for \$6,800 from the Northwest Tonka Lions
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-36 Approving Issuance of a Tobacco License to Birch's Brewhouse LLC DBA Birch's on the Lake effective through December 31, 2021

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Marty Schneider, Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce - Mr. Schneider provided a recap of the Buckhorn Days event, which was sponsored by the Orono Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce. He noted the event was very successful.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Fire Department Discussion and Letter from Long Lake Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association

Mr. Kelly Shaughnessy, representing the Long Lake Volunteer Fireman's Relief Association, read a letter relating to the conflict between the Long Lake and Orono City Councils regarding the fire service and asking for a quick resolution, as that would be in the best interest of public safety and

continued achievement of their mission statement. He indicated the letter had also been read at the Orono City Council meeting two weeks ago as well.

Council member Kvale asked if Mr. Shaughnessy received any feedback from Orono.

Mr. Shaughnessy replied that the response from the City Council in Orono was not overly promising, in his opinion. He indicated that the firefighters are frustrated because each Council is telling them it is the other one's problem, nothing is happening amongst the two cities, and therefore they feel they are being left out. He felt the Fire Relief Association was politely dismissed at the Orono City Council meeting.

Mayor Miner reflected that there is great support among the Long Lake City Council, but added that this is a tricky situation they are all in. He reviewed the City's involvement, what they are working on for future fire service discussions, upcoming meeting dates on the matter, as well as a recap of Long Lake's discussions with Orono on a master utility agreement to address Orono properties connecting to Long Lake utilities. He indicated he feels for the firefighters and what they are going through, and the City did not expect that Orono would want to take over Long Lake's Fire Department. He noted that the Council will also need to offer opportunity for City resident feedback before decisions are made.

Mr. Shaughnessy explained his concern is that timeframes are getting shorter and going down this road will get more difficult because indication is that Orono is ready to move within a year. He thought it did not make sense to split up the Fire Department, and if they do not hear anything regarding the future of the fire service, the Relief Association will need to meet to see what they need to do. He commented that he felt that this was a communication issue between the cities. He indicated the Council is free and welcome to ask the Fire Relief Association for any assistance on this matter.

Mayor Miner thanked Mr. Shaughnessy for representing the firefighters' concerns to the City.

Diamond Lake Regional Trail Master Planning Update – Three Rivers Park District

Mayor Miner recalled that the Council had previously requested Three Rivers Park District create design options for their proposed Diamond Lake Regional Trail (DLRD) through downtown Long Lake to address congestion, parking, and safety concerns along Martha Lane and Symes Street.

City Clerk Moeller read a letter from Ms. Jennifer Bankston, 1272 Tealwood Place:

"Dear Jeanette,

As I will be unable to attend the September 7th Long Lake City Council Meeting, I would greatly appreciate if you would make sure Mayor Minor, the council members and Scott Weske receive a copy of this email and ask for this to be read during open correspondence. They are copied on this email as well as other residents of Tealwood.

I am in opposition to Three Rivers Park taking over the beautiful walking path in Long Lake on Wayzata Boulevard for the following reasons:

1. The Luce Line already connects to the Baker Park trail via Old Crystal Bay Road, which is currently unusable as it is in serious need of repair. I asked a representative of Three Rivers Park when their Old Crystal Bay Road bike trail would be repaired, and was told it's on their list for repair 2027 IF they get funding. I haven't biked it for years due to its unrideable conditions, leading me to believe if repairs were needed on Wayzata Boulevard (if Three Rivers Park took

over) they would be unattended or many years in arrears. I also believe the incredible public works department of Long Lake would make repairs as and when needed.

2. There are far too many driveways along Wayzata Boulevard with trees obstructing a clear view of the path. Currently, with walkers and casual local bike traffic, we at Tealwood now inch our way cautiously to the path crossing, looking both ways 2 or 3 times to make sure there is a free and clear entrance onto Wayzata Boulevard. I fear groups of bikers, some whose main goal is speed, would create unsafe conditions for both residents and bikers. Currently the Luce Line trail is full of bikers pushing for speed and many are not cognizant of other bikes and or walkers, failing to announce their presence causing accidents.
3. If the path would remain as it is currently behind One Stop, onto Stymes, increasing ridership will cause enormous congestion on an already overused area due to the increase in drop in boats at the boat launch with parking already an issue. This is also a risk for potential accidents.
4. If a person(s) biking wants to eat or shop in downtown Long Lake, there already is safe access to Wayzata Boulevard from the Luce Line via paved path by Hardin Park, running behind John James' building. Gear West is a destination for bikers all over Minnesota and they are familiar with our beautiful city.

I request the Council reject the proposal from Three Rivers Park which will maintain Long Lake's infrastructure and protect their residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Jennifer Bengtson
1272 Tealwood Place"

Moeller indicated staff also received correspondence from Park Board Member Thomas Joyce who provided draft Park Board meeting minutes from the Board's last meeting, and asked that staff share Park Board action from the meeting with the Council. During the Board's meeting, Council Liaison Joyce had provided the Board with an update on Council activities, including a recap of the Council's last discussions on the DLRT proposal. Following that update, the Park Board made a motion to recommend the City Council refrain from further engagement regarding the Three Rivers Park District DLRT proposal given the negative feedback from local community members. The vote was unanimous for members present, with one member absent. During further other business discussions, the Park Board had also been advised that progress had been made in funding the Nelson Lakeside Park stage proposal, and the Board also made a motion to recommend the Council proceed with current approved plans for an event stage at Nelson Lakeside Park as proposed by the Chamber of Commerce. This was also a unanimous vote by members present.

Kelly Grissman, representing Three Rivers Park District, voiced introductory comments for the Council on their presentation and provided a history of their discussions with Council to date. She clarified that there is no obligation for the City to engage in a partnership with Three Rivers Park District should they feel that doing so is not in line with the City's priorities. She noted Stephen Shurson, project architect was also present, and Hennepin County Commissioner Beard has been involved in the project as well but was unable to make it to the meeting.

Mr. Stewart Crosby, SRF Consulting Group, gave a presentation detailing six different options for configuring the trail in the downtown area for the City Council to discuss.

Council member Kvale asked if any of the property owners such as the Red Rooster were spoken with regarding options that would take out the sidewalk.

Ms. Grissman responded that Three Rivers wanted to come to the City Council first to see how the City feels about the proposals, and then would go to the property owners unless the City Council decides not to support the project.

Council member Kvale wondered how the trail would work if it were to travel along the roadway by Orono schools. She wondered if there would be a divided line to designate the trail.

Ms. Grissman explained there is a portion of the trail and sidewalk that is already in place essentially to the City limits and is also between Willow Drive and Old Crystal Bay Road where there is a trail section missing in the City of Orono. She noted that the missing trail section is scheduled for construction in 2023. Hennepin County and the City of Orono have plans to implement that trail section and it will be similar to what the Council is seeing already within the community.

Council member Kvale noted that the sidewalk from Lakeside Wine & Spirits to the City limits seems narrow and she wondered if that could accommodate all of the pedestrian and bike traffic.

Mr. Crosby replied that the trail is eight feet wide and is wide enough to be considered a trail.

Mayor Miner indicated in the future there will be a housing complex going up in that area and there is currently a sidewalk there. He questioned if the proposal would be for a shared use partial bike lane and partial walking trail because he did not think it was very wide in that area.

Mr. Crosby stated that the trail in that area would probably need to be shared use with a line down the middle for bicycles and pedestrians sharing each direction like on regional trails in the metro area now. He did not think there was room to make the trail 12 feet wide.

Mayor Miner sought more information on the proposal for east side of the trail.

Ms. Grissman reviewed the section on the east side and recalled that when they met with Council in July, it seemed like there was a preference from the City Council to move forward with using Wurzer Trail if the regional trail was to be found amenable to the Council. Three Rivers had reached out to Hennepin County and looked at the Wurzer Trail/Wayzata Boulevard W crossing more closely. The City Council, City Administrator and the community at large has indicated that the crossing is not yet satisfactory and there are some safety concerns. Three Rivers has some reservations at this point in introducing more people to a crossing that is already flagged as potentially unsafe. With the Council's permission, if Three Rivers does any further engagement, Three Rivers would like to look at both of those segments further and look at how the crossing could be reconfigured to make it safer.

Council member Kvale noted that a lot of the community residents along the trail on Wayzata Boulevard W are not real enthusiastic about the proposal to use the Wayzata Boulevard W trail. She asked if there was any possibility Three Rivers could put in a bridge overpass if Wurzer Trail is used.

Ms. Grissman responded that there is no option for a bridge or a tunnel in that location, and any solutions for the Wurzer Trail crossing would have to be at-grade.

Mr. Crosby reviewed the area and explained that it would be too tight for construction of an overpass to be feasible.

Council member Feldmann inquired what would happen to the outside seating at Red Rooster if the trail were to go through that area.

Moeller replied that the Red Rooster's outside seating on the corner is actually allowed by Special Event Permit only and is not a permanent patio that the Red Rooster has any right to. She also noted any loss of parking in the downtown area is something to be considered.

Council member Kvale questioned again if there was any way a bridge could be installed on the trail.

Mr. Crosby reviewed the challenges regarding installing a bridge.

Marty Schneider, 1176 Wayzata Boulevard W, read aloud a letter from himself and his wife, Janet Schaefer, offering the following comments on the trail proposal:

"We strongly oppose the proposed route(s) for the Three Rivers Park District Diamond Lake Regional Trail through Long Lake.

The City of Long Lake, with extensive community input, spent many hours and dollars to carefully create the lakeshore Wayzata Boulevard W CSAH 112 trail into a safely designed, community focused trail that serves all ages of walkers, runners and bikers. It is also consistent with our Comprehensive Plan. The original Hennepin County plan was designed to have the trail east of downtown on the north side of CSAH 112 crossing over four active road intersections, stopping at Greenhill Lane, the crossing CSAH 112 down to Old Long Lake Road following on the street east to the Luce Line Trail. The Long Lake trail, which cost over \$125,000 to the City in redesign fees and \$70,000 to replace the Hennepin County lakeshore chain link fence plan, now offers a straight connection from downtown Long Lake to the Luce Line trestle bridge. This trail has safely welcomed all types of uses ranging from baby strollers to bikers. The amount and type of use is consistent with Long Lake's Comprehensive Plan and visions of safety and design. In the years ahead, Long Lake will be welcoming over 300+ new residents which will add to community use of the trail as well. We are not as familiar with the sound barrier Wurzer Trail option proposal.

As land owners in Medina too, we followed and agreed with Medina's rejection of the Diamond Lake Regional Trail proposal earlier this year in areas south of Hamel Road.

We feel the Three Rivers Park District is overreaching with this proposal in the small town of Long Lake only after other larger communities have rejected it. We also feel that an advance notice Three Rivers Park District public input work session tailored for Long Lake would have been beneficial.

Sincerely,

Janet Schaefer, former Mayor of Long Lake, 1176 Wayzata Boulevard W
Marty Schneider, former Mayor of Long Lake, 1176 Wayzata Boulevard W"

Council member Dyvik stated that following the Council's last discussion of the trail with Three Rivers Park District, he had written an email dated July 13 that staff had forwarded to the full Council at his request. Council member Dyvik read aloud his comments from that email:

"Mayor and Council,

I've been thinking a lot about the Three Rivers regional trail proposal through Long Lake and I find myself becoming more strongly opposed to it. The resident feedback I've received is part of my reasoning, but I'm also thinking about my (and others) desire to have a walkable downtown. I started to think back to the planning stages when I was on the citizens project advisory committee in 2012/13 for the design of the CSAH112 turnback project, including the trail. Two of the main

values that we collectively wanted to see for Long Lake were safety and walkability. We spent many hours deciding how to achieve that, including crosswalks at key locations, setting a low speed limit through downtown, and standing firm on keeping the traffic light at Lake Street (the County wanted to get rid of it since we had one at Brown Road), and we went back and forth on where the trail should be located. It was originally going to be on the south side of the road across from the lake but I think we made the right decision when we moved it to the north side directly next to the lake. At any rate, we now have a beautiful trail that is used for walkers, runners, and yes, bikers. And it connects to the Luce Line at the east end and will eventually connect to Lake Independence Regional Trail and ultimately County Road 6 on the west end. I believe we have achieved what we set out to do. A local trail system for walkers and bikers with connectivity to a broader network of options. My concern with now turning it into a regional trail is that it will become a primary use for bikers and we may not feel its as pedestrian anymore. And there will be a greater concern for safety, especially for children walking (or biking with families). Look at what Wayzata had to do to accommodate bikers and walkers through their downtown. They had to split them into separate paths. We don't have the real estate to do that.

So I don't think we should change what we have created (and what we paid for). What we have is a system of trail, sidewalks, and crosswalks that was put in place for the future of our community and to make Long Lake a more pedestrian city. As was mentioned in our meeting, think about the upcoming residential units that will be built at Zvago and The Borough, this will add likely 300 residents, or more, directly on our corridor, many of them older who will be very likely to use our trail for walking.

I don't feel like we should be pressured into accepting any proposal that comes through our downtown from the Three Rivers Parks group simply because Orono and Medina rejected their original (preferred) proposal.

I think we should just say, no thank you.

Respectfully,
Jahn Dyvik"

Council member Kvale questioned where signage would go once the trail is constructed in Orono. She noted that people will likely utilize Long Lake's trail regardless of if there is a regional trail going through or not.

Ms. Grissman indicated that if the City of Long Lake determines that a partnership is not in the City's best interest, there would be no regional trail signage along the downtown corridor or with Orono. She agreed there may be additional City trail users because people are already making these connections and will make them on their own with or without Three Rivers being a party to the existing trail infrastructure. What Three Rivers would like to do, even if the Council decides not to participate, is to think about on the very westerly edge where the Lake Independence Regional Trail and Wayzata Boulevard will connect, giving consideration to some type of wayfinding signage that would be a simple arrow indicating "downtown commercial area and retail" so people still can access the community and frequent or be visitors of Long Lake businesses. She noted Three Rivers is okay with whatever the City Council decides to do and will work with the City on the wayfinding and connection.

Council member Dyvik appreciated the efforts made by Three Rivers to look at some creative options in the downtown. He thought with all of those options, there will still be people wanting to go straight and will go in front of store shops which is not good for the City's pedestrians. While he is ultimately supportive of biking, his primary concern is for pedestrian safety. He does not think the trail options proposed would help pedestrian safety concerns.

Council member Joyce stated she would echo Council member Dyvik, the Park Board's recommendation, and the public comment the Council has heard. She indicated she was not in support of the DLRT proposal through Long Lake because the City has made all of the trails it wanted already, and they serve the community well.

Mayor Miner agreed that he appreciated the options presented. Though he was initially very receptive to the DLRT proposal and thought it would be great to bring more bikers to downtown businesses, at this time he now feels the drawbacks would be too high.

Council member Feldmann added that for him, the matter comes back to the pedestrian nature of the City's existing trails, and having an increase in bike traffic does change things. He thought that the DLRT proposal would be outside the vision of what was originally intended by the City for its trails.

Council member Kvale questioned whether other trail options originally suggested by the Council earlier could be considered.

Ms. Grissman indicated Three Rivers was not interested at this time in looking at other options.

A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Dyvik, to not support a regional trail through Long Lake at this time. Ayes: Feldmann, Dyvik, Miner and Joyce. Abstained: Kvale. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wurzer Trail Crossing – Council member Dyvik stated that in the interest of pedestrian safety and walkability, he would like to see Wurzer Trail crossing looked at. He would hope that by Spring 2022 there is an initiative to get something done. He noted that he would also like to see pedestrian crossing signs installed there as well. Council member Joyce agreed and thought this should be looked at in allocating funding in the budget for these types of improvements. City Clerk Moeller was not sure if the City has reached out to Interim Chief Schultz yet about that issue but before giving the County a nudge to request they take on a safety improvement in that intersection, the best person to possibly advocate for the City with the County on this issue may be the City's Police Chief. Council member Dyvik wondered who Three Rivers received their information from regarding that intersection not being safe. Weske commented that it had probably been himself. He added that staff has not received the speed study that was supposed to be completed in the corridor two years ago, and indicated he would work on pursuing getting that completed. Council member Dyvik noted that he would not want to wait for pedestrian safety improvements until the speed study has been done, but reflected that the Council could make the case that there will be 300 plus new residents on Wayzata Boulevard W with more traffic using the crossing. Weske briefly overviewed the history of interactions with the County regarding this area. Mayor Miner asked that staff provide updates for the Council on the matter and indicated he personally would reach out to the City's County Commissioner.

Orono Youth Hockey Association – Council member Dyvik reported that one of the Orono Youth Hockey Board members had spoken to him asking about the ice rink at Holbrook Park and if they might be able to get not much more than two hours a week on it, possibly Saturday mornings and one night a week. Moeller indicated she could follow up with the Association and noted there are a lot of local neighborhood residents that use the rink in the winter so it would remain important to maintain availability of open skate times. Mayor Miner asked if there was a staffing strategy for the warming house this winter. Moeller replied that the strategy is the same as it always has been, which is to advertise the position and hope people will want to work in the warming house. Weske recalled in December 2020 he had brought up the subject of looking at maybe taking out the current

rink they have to replace it with two that could be next to each other, noting that the flooding system is not a very good system and there are significant opportunities for improvement.

EDA Meeting – Council member Joyce wondered if there was going to be a presentation on a proposal for the former BP station property at the next EDA meeting. Moeller indicated she had sent out an inquiry earlier in the day but had not yet received a response.

Fall Cleanup Day - Moeller noted there will be an additional fall clean up event for residents of Long Lake, Orono, Minnetonka Beach and Spring Park on Saturday, September 18. She added that information on the event has been sent out via the Listserv as well as on the City's Facebook page.

Next Meeting Date - Mayor Miner indicated the next City Council meeting will be on September 28 at 6:30 pm with an EDA meeting starting at 5:30 pm.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator